

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 248604
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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APPROVED BY: S/S-O BPERITO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 248604

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAR ES SALAAM 4149 ACTION SECSTATE LONDON INFO GABOR
ONE
LUSAKA MAPUTO PRETORIA USUN OCT 17.

QUOTE S S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 4149

EXDIS - HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: LONDON 17179

1. WHAT STRIKES US AS A MAJOR WEAKNESS OF OWEN STRATEGY IS HIS
APPARENT BELIEF THAT IT CAN GET VERY FAR WITHOUT BRINGING
FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS MORE INTO PICTURE. SUPPORT OF FRONT
LINE PRESIDENTS REMAINS CRUCIAL TO WHOLE SETTLEMENT PROCESS.

2. WE BELIEVE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY NYERERE, WOULD
HAVE PROBLEMS WITH OWEN'S STRATEGY INASMUCH AS IT, ALONG WITH
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CARVER'S ASSOCIATED IDEAS, STEPS BACK FROM TWO FUNDAMENTAL
PRINCIPLES THAT NOT NYERERE ABOARD ON ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS--
I.E., BASING INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE ARMY PREDOMINANTLY ON FORCES
OF PATRIOTIC FRONT AND LEAVING FIELD OPEN FOR ZIMBABWEANS TO CHOOSE
THEIR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP THEMSELVES. FURTHER, WE THINK OWEN
STRATEGY WHETHER CHECKED OUT FIRST OR NOT WITH FRONT LINE
P

SIDENTS RUNS RISK OF RAISING THEIR SUSPICIONS ABOUT BRITISH
INTENTIONS AND, IF WE ARE ASSOCIATED WITH OWEN'S IDEAS, OURS.

3. IN PLANNING HOW TO EXPRESS TO BRITISH OUR PROBLEMS WITH OWEN'S

STRATEGY, WE BELIEVE THERE IS MERIT IN FIRST OF ALL EMPHASIZING THE
IMPORTANCE OF GETTING FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS' SUPPORT FOR ANY CHANGES
IN SETTLEMENT STRATEGY, ESPECIALLY OF THE MAGNITUDE OWEN IS THINKING
ABOUT. HAVING MADE THAT POINT, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE IMPORTANCE OF OWEN'S CONCERN ABOUT THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF
PATRIOTIC FRONT DISUNITY ON MOMENTUM OF SETTLEMENT. WE THEN
MIGHT NOTE OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS--
ESPECIALLY NYERERE--SHARE THAT CONCERN AND PROBABLY ARE LOOKING FOR
WAYS TO OVERCOME PATRIOTIC FRONT DISUNITY PROBLEMS. (NOTE: I
BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR SAPIN, WHO IS IN NAIROBI UNTIL WEDNESDAY,
19 OCTOBER, WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE NOT DISCUSS IN DETAIL WITH BRITISH
NYERERE'S THINKING AS WE KNOW IT ON GETTING AROUND PATRIOTIC FRONT
DISUNITY AS REPORTED DAR 4114 AND 4147.) THUS, WE CAN MAINTAIN
THAT THERE IS SCOPE FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS
ON HOW TO GET PAST PATRIOTIC FRONT DISUNITY HURDLE. AT THE SAME
TIME, WE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO BRITISH THAT WE THINK OWEN STRATEGY
OF NKOMO/SMITH DEAL WOULD BE NON-STARTER AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE
IF PRESENTED TO FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS LIKE NYERERE.

WALKER

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-A, NATIONALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE248604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O BPERITO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: N770006-0502
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771051/aaaabrst.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e840ac2d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: 77 LONDON 17179
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 891498
Secure: LOCK1
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040608
Subject: RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, (OWEN, DAVID)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e840ac2d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009